(d) if so, the details thereof, separately; and

(e) whether Government are going to appoint dealers at the vacant locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 102 retail outlet dealerships and 105 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans 1996-98 for the State of Bihar, Locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the Oil Companies from time to time and selection of dealers/distributors is made by the Dealer Selection Boards on merit based on the interview of the eligible candidates. Recently Government have set up 57 new Dealer Selection Boards all over the country of which 7 are for the State of Bihar. It generally takes about 6—12 months for the commissioning of the dealerships/distributors from the date of the interview.

Policy for transferring of IOC official

105. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any fixed policy for transferring of officials of Indian Oil Corporation who have been promoted or have completed their tenure at one place;

(b) whether a large number of officers posted at the Delhi airport office/ Depot of IOC have managed to overstay their tenure on political recommendations and other vested considerations;

(c) by when are these officers likely to be transferred;

(d) if not, the reasons for not transferring them; and

(e) the steps being taken to immediately rectify the situation so as the morale of the officers posted at difficult stations is not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has its own transfer policy for its officials. Usually, depending on the assignment at a location, an official is transferred during a period ranging from 3 to 8 years from one unit to another in the same location or to a different location. Under exceptional circumstances, an official is retained at a location for a longer duration.

(b) to (e) At present, there are 96 officers posted at the Airport Office/ depots of the IOC in Delhi, of which only three officers have been working at the same location for more than 8 years. Out of these three, two are widows of which one has sought voluntary retirement. The third officer is due to retire by 2001.

Extensions to CEOs of public sector oil companies

106. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been very liberal in granting two years' extension to Chief Executives of public sector oil companies;

(b) the criteria adopted for granting such extensions;

(c) whether Government have the power to revoke such extensions;

(d) if so, when such a power has to be exercised;

(e) whether it is a fact that performance of oil PSUs is not up to the mark; and

(f) the steps proposed to review such extension and find new talent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE JN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) With effect from May 30, 1998, the age of retirement of board level appointees was raised from 58 years to 60 years by the Government. Accordingly, those board level incumbents including the Chief Executives in the Oil Sector PSUs, who had not completed 58 years or 5 years tenure have been allowed to continue upto 60 years or completion of 5 years tenure, whichever is earlier. Extension beyond the normal tenure of 5 year is, however, given as per the laid down procedure i.e. on the recommendation of the Public enterprises Selection Board and with the approval of the Appointments Commettee of the Cabinet.

(c), (d) and (f) Extension is granted to an incumbent having due regard to his performance. Such appointment can be terminated by Government for non-performance or proven irregularity, after following due procedure.

(e) No, Sir.